

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
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O R 202047Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1624
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 4657

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO
SUBJECT: ILO--63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC)

REF: STATE 102699

1. DURING HOROWITZ VISIT TO BOGOTA MARCH 29-30, HIGH GOC OFFICIALS AT BOTH FOREIGN AND LABOR MINISTRIES TOLD HIM THAT THE GOC WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH US ON PROBLEMS AFFLICTING ILO AND GAVE CLEAN COMMITMENT THAT COLOMBIA WOULD SUPPORT THE US POSITION AT THE 63RD ILC. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO FOLLOW UP WITH GOC OFFICIALS AT THE UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL TO CONFIRM AND REMIND THE COLOMBIANS OF THIS COMMITMENT.

2. UOPN RECEIPT OF REFTTEL, I SOUGHT AN APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, AS INSTRUCTED. IN A MEETING ON MAY 9 WITH FONOFF SECRETARY GENERAL CARLOS BORDA, WHO RANKS JUST AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HE STATED THAT SUCH AN INTERVIEW WAS UNNECESSARY SINCE GOC HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO SUPPORT US POSITION. THIS POSITION HAS SINCE BEEN REITERATED BY MFA UNDERSECRETARY FONSECA IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS.

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3. LABOR MINISTER MONTOYA, AND OTHER TOP MOL OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IN MEDELLIN MOST OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS PREPARING AND HOSTING THE CIAT MEETING. THE CHIEF OF THE MOL LEGAL SECTION, LINO ACEVEDO GOMEZ, WHO WILL ATTEND THE 63RD ILC, HAS ASSURED EMBASSY OFFICERS, HOWEVER, THAT THE HOROWITZ CONVERSATION WITH VICE MINISTER CAMPILLO WAS THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER MONTOYA, AND THE MINISTER IS IN COMPLETE AGREE-

MENT ON THE NEED TO SUPPORT US EFFORTS IN THE JUNE CONFERENCE. WILL ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS WITH MINISTER MONTOYA BETWEEN THE TIME HE RETURNS TO BOGOTA ON MAY 23 AND HIS DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA.

4. GOC DELEGATION TO ILO CONFERENCE WILL BE HEADED BY LABOR MINISTER OSCAR MONTOYA MONTOYA, ASSISTED BY THREE MEMBERS OF MOL STAFF (INCLUDING LINO ACEVEDO) AND TWO MEMBERS EACH FROM SENATE AND HOUSE. EMPLOYER DELEGATE IS FERNANDO URIBE RESTREPO. WORKER DELEGATE IS UTC PRESIDENT TULIO CUEVAS ROMERO, BACKED BY CTC PRESIDENT GUSTAVO DIAZ RAGA, WHO ALSO RECALLS HIS COMMITMENT TO HOROWITZ IN MARCH.

5. GOC IS WELL AWARE OF OUR SINCERE CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE OF ILO, AND THERE IS EVERY EVIDENCE THAT ITS DELEGATION WILL SUPPORT US INITIATIVES.
DREXLER

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